



## Reduce Fuel Use Reduce Idling



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USAG-HI Commander

### A Word from the Commander

As fuel prices spiral ever upwards, it is important for Garrison Hawaii to help sustain the mission by lowering our fuel consumption.

### Idling "Myths"

- **Myth 1:** "The engine should be warmed up for long periods prior to driving."

**Fact:** Idling is not an effective way to warm up your engine, even in cold weather. The best way to warm up your vehicle is to drive it. With today's modern engines, you need no more than 30 seconds of idling, even on winter days, before starting to drive.

### Idling Facts

- When you let your vehicle idle, you are wasting fuel and causing unnecessary emissions.
- One hour of idling burns up to one gallon of fuel. Thus, if a fleet of 25 diesel vehicles reduces idling time by one hour per day, at \$5 per gallon, we save \$45,625 in fuel per year.
- An idling engine delivers zero miles to the gallon.
- More than 10 seconds of idling uses more fuel than starting the engine.
- It is more economical to stop the engine even if you only have to wait for 30 seconds.

- **Myth 2:** "Idling is good for the engine."

**Fact:** Excessive idling can actually damage engine components, including cylinders, spark plugs and the exhaust system. Because the engine isn't working at peak operating temperature, fuel doesn't undergo complete combustion resulting in fuel residues that contaminate engine oil and make spark plugs dirty.

- **Myth 3:** "Shutting off and restarting the vehicle when stopped is bad for the engine."

**Fact:** Frequent restarting has little impact on engine components. Component wear caused by restarting the engine is estimated to add \$10 per year to the cost of driving,

money that will likely be recovered several times over in fuel savings from reduced idling according to the Lexington Department of Health.

**Question:** How often have you been bothered by the black smoke that comes out of tailpipes of trucks and buses?

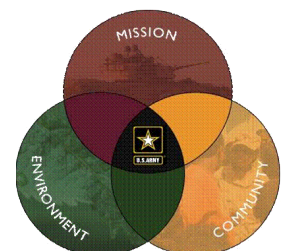
**Question:** How often have you had to deal with the noise of trucks and buses left idling too long?

These are real quality of life concerns that all of us have the ability to change.

Reducing idling can be as easy as turning off your engine.

In accordance with Presidential Executive Order 13423, USAG-HI command has established objectives and targets to reduce its fuel consumption by **2 percent annually** through 2015.

Let's work together to control unnecessary vehicle idling. By doing so, we will improve our health and the environment while, saving fuel and reducing costs.



## Reduce Fuel Use Reduce Idling

### *Idling "Myths" continued*

- **Myth 4:** "Shutting off and restarting your vehicle uses more gas than if you leave it running."

**Fact:** Over 10 seconds of idling uses more fuel than restarting the engine. As a rule of thumb, if you are going to stop for 10 seconds or more—except in traffic—turn off the engine. You'll save money, and you won't produce harmful carbon dioxide, the leading greenhouse gas.



Reduce Fuel Consumption by 2% Annually

## Which Actions Can I Take To Reduce Fuel Consumption?

- **Give your GSA vehicle a break.** Carpool, share rides to meetings and combine trips whenever possible.
- **Travel light; right-size your fleet and vehicle types.** Lighter cars get better fuel economy. Walk or bike if you can.
- **Drive smart.** Avoid jackrabbit and lead-footed stops, which reduce fuel economy as well as brake life. On the highway, wind resistance is your enemy, and the faster you go, the tougher the battle.
- **Tune your ride.** A well-maintained car is more fuel-efficient and produces lower greenhouse gas emissions. Fully inflated tires give you better gas mileage. Follow your monthly GSA vehicle maintenance and oil change schedules.
- **Reduce idling.** Turn off your engine if your vehicle will be idling in an off-street area for more than five minutes. Idle reduction is an easy and effective way to reduce your fuel use, emissions, and unnecessary wear and tear on engines.

## Why Is Idling A Problem?

### *Air Quality and Health Impact*

- An operating vehicle emits more than 40 hazardous pollutants from its tailpipe into the atmosphere. Some emissions, principally carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), are classified as greenhouse gases (GHGs) because they increase the earth's natural "greenhouse effect" and, in doing so, are contributing to the changing of the world's climate.
- Diesel exhaust contains microscopic soot about 200 times smaller than the period at the end of this sentence. These small particulates can enter and lodge in the lungs of people and can aggravate asthma and cause lung damage.
- You should know that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has classified diesel particulate matter as a likely human carcinogen.



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Save Our Health  
Save Our Money

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